

Dear Editor,

On Mother's Day, May 11, 2003, between 2:30 and 3:00 a.m. the Town of Nolensville was struck by a tornado that had originated in the Centerville area and had traversed through the Franklin area down Clovercroft and York Road and extended over to Walter Hill and Rutherford County area. While the destruction was limited to a small corridor, the impact that it had upon peoples lives was unbelievable. Once again, people of Nolensville, through outstanding individual efforts, collectively were able to cope and effectively deal with this devastating storm. When I received a call around 2:30 on Sunday morning, Town of Nolensville Public Works Director Lonnie Bowden had already assessed the situation and realized the danger that was present. Within 10 to 15 minutes the Fire Department under the direction of Chief Presley Hughes and the Nolensville Police Department and Chief Jeff Goforth were summons to the scene. Chief Hughes had sustained substantial damage to his property and home, but was able to effectively mobilize his department and dispatch them to the fire station and to various areas for rescue efforts.

As daylight came and the scene became more stabilized a home-to-home check was conducted. Miraculously not one individual received any type of injuries from the storm. But, the damage to trees and property was substantial. By 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning chainsaws and cleanup efforts were initiated with neighbors helping neighbors. For example, Reverend Larry Guinn of Jenkins Cumberland Presbyterian Church offered his church as an area for individuals to come for food, water, restroom and cleanup facilities. Reverend Guinn mobilized his church members to prepare some meals and food for the storm victims and the workers. He even had individuals deliver food to the various storm sites or the affected people.

Middle Tennessee Electric was notified in the early morning after daylight and was on the scene around 8:00 a.m. assessing the damage with restoration of power and service to most homes by mid-day to mid-afternoon. Assessment around 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening revealed that all effected homes did have power restored to them.

Through individual and professional effort by all a very devastating situation was made a bit more manageable and safe for all those affected. The amount of pride that I, as Mayor of the Town of Nolensville, experienced by seeing the unselfish devotion of my staff and of individuals throughout the community of Nolensville helping their fellow man is immeasurable. This once again demonstrates why Nolensville is such a good place to live. Thanks again for all who contributed. I trust I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Charles F. Knapper
Mayor